



***There's a Beetle in My Bucket
and other challenges facing
an orphaned horse***

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**By
Heather Rosselle Irwin**

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**New Author Releases Nonfiction Chapter Book About
Sequoyah, An Orphaned Horse**

New author Heather Rosselle Irwin wrote Sequoyah's inspiring story to detail the life of this extraordinary horse orphaned at birth. Heather and Sequoyah became inseparable after she and her husband Hugh adopted the foal since her mother had produced no milk for her. Sequoyah survived her first two harrowing weeks of life with the help of Heather, Hugh, the veterinarian, and their friends who all fed her around the clock with a bottle.

GREENSBORO, NC—SEPTEMBER 2, 2019—When Sequoyah was born during a snowstorm in a farm field in Virginia, she was left all alone. Her mother had abandoned her. Heather and Hugh rescued Sequoyah from that snowy field and carried her in a horse trailer to a stall in their neighbors' barn. Heather stayed in the trailer with Sequoyah to comfort her. For the first two weeks of Sequoyah's life, the humans helping her didn't know if the foal would survive. She had direly needed that first meal from her mother that would've been packed with all kinds of vitamins and special nutrients Sequoyah needed to survive, stay healthy, and begin to grow.

Eventually Heather and Hugh decided that Sequoyah needed to be moved into their neighbors' basement because she was small and had little hair, so she had a hard time staying warm. That way they could easily go downstairs to check on her. Sequoyah was always around humans—not horses—so she didn't learn or know how to act like a horse. When she'd grown taller, Heather and Hugh decided it was time to move her back to her stall in the barn and to let her move around outdoors as well. She became friends with the goats she'd watched from the basement window. When Sequoyah was outdoors with Heather, she learned to run, kick, buck, and stand on her hind legs. Heather had to be very careful, because Sequoyah didn't understand that she had to stay away from Heather when she did that. Sequoyah also began learning from other horses on the farm.

Heather and Hugh moved Sequoyah about a mile down the road to their farm. They bought a miniature donkey named Ellie to be Sequoyah's best friend and protector. At the end of the story, the entire family moved to Heather and Hugh's new, larger farm in North Carolina.

There's a Beetle in My Bucket—and Other Challenges Facing An Orphaned Horse is an inspirational, nonfiction chapter book for Grade-4 children through adults. Perseverance in the face of health obstacles, survival no matter what life throws at an animal, and loving to be around her humans are resounding themes on every page of this book. Readers will find themselves drawn to this small, challenged, unique horse and her cute miniature friend Ellie.

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